

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-3 and 11 is respectfully acknowledged.

These claims, however, have not been rewritten in independent form at this time since, as set forth in detail hereinbelow, it is respectfully submitted that their new parent claims now also recite allowable subject matter.

THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 6 has been amended as indicated in red on the accompanying copy thereof to change erroneous reference numeral "5c" to "50" as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to Fig. 6 has been overcome.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that reference numeral "12e" in Fig. 3 is also shown in Fig. 7 and is mentioned at page 17, line 3 of the specification, and that reference numeral "16" in Fig. 3 is also shown in Fig. 1 and is mentioned at page 7, line 27 of the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to Fig. 3 be withdrawn.

THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

New claims 15 and 16 have been added to recite the subject matter of original claims 1 and 13 in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. In particular, new claims 15 and 16 have been prepared to no longer claim features which are not supported by the disclosure in the specification and drawings.

In addition, claims 2-4, 6, 10-11 and 14 have been amended to depend from new claim 15, as well as to better accord with new claim 15 and/or to make minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct minor antecedent basis problems. In particular, it is noted that amended claim 4 now correctly describes the second support as a support for the (second) light illuminator rather than for the focusing main body, and amended claim 10 has been amended to recite that the guide portion is selectively detachable from and attachable to the focusing handle main body.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and that the amended claims are in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered and that the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Aikawa (USP 5,946,133); claims 1, 10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Biber (USP 6,072,622); and claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Aikawa. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the structure of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 15, first and second holders (i.e., which have respective separate bodies) can be selectively attached to the attaching portion of one focusing main body. As recited in new claim 15, the first and second holder hold first and second (i.e., different type) illuminators (i.e., microscopes). Therefore, the structure of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 15 makes it possible to selectively attach different microscopes to one focusing main body.

New independent claim 16, moreover, recites substantially the same structure with respect to "a plurality of holders".

By contrast, Aikawa merely discloses a microscope body (1) comprising a microscope body portion (2), a stand (3) and a lens barrel moving mechanism (4), wherein the microscope body portion (2) has a lens barrel case (7), an objective lens unit (9) and an illumination device (10).

And Biber merely discloses a microscope comprising a microscope body proper (1), a focusing module (2) and a binocular observation tube (3).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that neither of these references discloses, teaches or suggests the above described structural features and advantageous effects achieved by the present invention as recited in new claims 15 and 16 whereby a first holder and a second holder (claim 15) or a plurality of holders (claim 16) with separate bodies can be selectively attached to an attaching portion of a focusing main body. In the cited references, it is impossible to selectively attach different microscopes to one focusing main body.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 15 and 16, as well all each of claims 2-12 and 14 depending from new claim 15, all patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: WITHDRAWN CLAIMS 5 and 7-9

It is noted that non-elected claims 5 and 7-9 have not been canceled at this time since these claims respectively depend from new (generic) claim 15. Accordingly, upon allowance of new claim 15, it is respectfully requested that non-elected claims 5

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and 7-9 be rejoined and considered by the Examiner (and allowed)  
based on their dependence from new (generic) claim 15.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance  
of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are  
respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or  
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the  
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt  
action.

Respectfully submitted,



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